

piece of their operation. Wisconsin Plastics is a great example of consistent improvement and growth. Their production of key components of Wisconsin industries speaks to their immense value to the State of Wisconsin. From providing parts for the defense aviation industry to the healthcare industry, Wisconsin Plastics helps keep Wisconsin running and is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin and the United States of America.

I invite all Members of this body to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin Plastics, Inc. I extend my sincerest congratulations to founder Jim Christensen, Sr., current president Jim Christensen, and the entire Wisconsin Plastics team on this outstanding milestone. I wish them lasting success for years to come.

#### HONORING SHEILA APPLEWHITE

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and remarkable retired educator and cancer survivor, Sheila Applewhite, who has been a champion of breast cancer awareness, advocacy, and service in her community.

In 2007, Sheila was diagnosed with breast cancer. She leaned on her faith and sprung into action, ready to fight. Sheila stated, "I never felt the negative feelings that people tend to feel because I put my trust in God."

As she went through the process of having both breasts surgically removed, the extraction of eight lymph nodes, and chemo and radiation, her preparation remained consistent. "I would pray and anoint my head with oil," Sheila recalled. "I would also pray that God would guide my doctors' and nurses' hands." Sheila's fighting mode consisted of praying, reading, and meditating on scripture.

Since that time, Sheila has retired after a 27-year teaching career, teaching mostly second grade. She taught 6 more years at St. Joe in Greenville.

Her experience has taught her that cancer and cancer treatment varies from person to person. Sheila said that just because one person's response to treatment is hair loss, that doesn't mean it will be similar in another. But she didn't allow it to get that far in her case. "I cut my own hair off before I started receiving treatments," she said. "Some people might begin to worry or become afraid with something like hair loss. But I never felt that way."

Fully retired and enjoying her grandkids, Sheila keeps faith at the center of her life and avails herself as a symbol of hope to those on the opposite end of this journey. Sheila stated, "I never had a bad feeling about what I was going through because God said He would never leave us or forsake us. I always tell those going through cancer treatment to stay positive and put God ahead of your problems. I never felt like I was alone. And I don't mind being someone they can talk to."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheila Applewhite for her dedication to breast cancer awareness, advocacy, service and support to survivors.

#### RECOGNIZING NICK AYERS

### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2022*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nick Ayers for his service to Kentucky's Second District. Prior to joining my D.C. congressional office, the Chesapeake, Virginia, native had great work experience in congressional offices. While he was working on his degree in Public Administration at George Mason University, Nick interned in Congressman Bruce Westerman's office. Following his college graduation, Nick joined Congresswoman Diane Black's office as staff assistant and worked his way up to legislative correspondent.

In March 2019, I welcomed Nick to my team as a legislative correspondent. In this role, he did an excellent job effectively communicating to constituents and responding to their inquiries. His strong knowledge of policy earned him a promotion to legislative aide. Nick met with constituents and researched the issues in his portfolio, including veterans, postal services, science, space, technology, fisheries, and federal budget policy issues.

I want to thank Nick for his work serving Kentucky's Second District as a legislative correspondent and a legislative aide. I wish him the best as he excels in this next chapter of his career on Capitol Hill.

#### HONORING BESSIE ORSBY-JONES

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Mrs. Bessie Orsby-Jones. Bessie has been a champion of breast cancer awareness, advocacy, and service in her community.

Bessie Orsby-Jones is the Founder of Divine Branches, a support group she started after going into the remission stage of cancer. Mrs. Jones was in great need of a support group, but there was not one available in her community. She had a conversation about her concerns with Kenita Faye Miller, a cancer survivor and classmate of 12 years from St. Louis. Later, Mrs. Jones was given an invitation to join The Breakfast Club Cancer Support group in St. Louis through virtual access. She soon felt strongly about forming a support group of her own. She began a search for survivors in and around Clarksdale. She soon started the support group with Catherine Holmes, Mary Caradine, Vanessa Lampkin and Joyce Clark.

Mrs. Jones said she prayed about the name of the support group and God gave her the word Divine. After she expressed it to the group, one of the members shouted, "Branches." Thus, the name "The Divine Branches" was agreed upon. Divine means directed by God, and branches was based on John 15:5 "I am the Vine you are the Branches." She knew that if the branches stayed connected to the Vine they would go forth and be productive.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bessie Orsby-Jones for her dedication to breast cancer awareness, advocacy, service and support to survivors, and remembering those who lives were lost during their battle against breast cancer.

#### HONORING MAYOR VELMA D. HENDRIX

### HON. JULIA LETLOW

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2022*

Ms. LETLOW. Madam Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing the incredible life and tremendous legacy of Mayor Velma D. Hendrix of Melville, Louisiana. Tragically, we lost Mayor Hendrix last week, just hours before the polls closed in her campaign to win a second term in office.

Velma Hendrix was born and raised in Melville, always proud of her roots in this small town on the banks of the Atchafalaya River. She dedicated her life to serving others. Her first calling was as a teacher in St. Landry Parish's schools, impacting the lives of countless students in the classroom.

After a career in education, she stepped up to serve the people of Melville, serving as an Alderman before winning election as Mayor in 2018. She sought the office at age 80, wanting to help others at a time in life when most people are thinking about taking time off.

She ran on a platform of bringing honesty, integrity, and accountability to the municipal government, wanting to rebuild a town that had fallen on tough economic times. When asked by a reporter what her goals were in office, she said, "I just want to see Melville come back."

Madam Speaker, I cannot think of a greater example of dedication to service and commitment to others than Mayor Velma D. Hendrix. While we mourn her untimely passing, we also take comfort in knowing that her legacy will live on in her community.

#### PHILIP NELSON

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Phil Nelson for his decades of service to the Citizens' Climate Lobby and to the State of Colorado.

Phil Nelson has been active in the environmental community for most of his life. In 1958, he started his education at MIT and received his B.S. in 1962 and Ph.D. in 1967; both in geophysics. After graduating from MIT, Phil worked at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (1977–1982) as well as the Sohio Petroleum, BP and Book Writing (1982–1987) before finishing his career at the United States Geological Survey (1988–2014). Phil retired in 2014 and continued his passion for environmental issues through volunteer work.

In 2014, he joined the Citizens' for Climate Lobby (CCL) in Golden, Colorado where he served as chair until 2022. This group meets regularly with local, state and federal leaders

and staff members to advocate for and discuss environmental concerns and issues. Through his work, Phil has attended regional and national meetings, lobbied in Washington D.C., and raised awareness of the threat of climate change by making presentations to civic groups and providing information at public events. Phil and members of his CCL chapter have also been active in writing letters to the editor which have appeared in various Colorado news outlets and worked to obtain signatures for petitions, written public comment, and garnered support for various issues across the state. Throughout his time at CCL, Phil's hard work and dedication has proven to be a tremendous asset to the environmental community in Colorado.

I extend my deepest appreciation for Phil Nelson and his service and dedication to our community and the State of Colorado.

**HONORING PASTOR REGINALD BUCKLEY**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Pastor Reginald M. Buckley.

Pastor Buckley was born in Jackson, MS, to the Rev. and Mrs. Horace L. Buckley. He is a product of Jackson Public Schools and completed his undergraduate education at Tougaloo College. A recipient of the Andrew W. Mellon fellowship, Pastor Buckley entered graduate school at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in 1994 and completed the Master of Arts Degree in English Literature in 1996.

In 1998, he was called to serve as the senior pastor of Second Baptist Church of Danville, Illinois, and ministered there for nine years. During his tenure there, he served as Secretary and 2nd Vice Moderator of the Wood River Baptist District Association, the oldest continuous Baptist district association in the nation. Pastor Buckley accepted the call to return to Jackson, MS, and serve as the executive pastor of Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in 2007. After serving for seven years, he assumed the role of Senior Pastor in January 2015. He has served as the Dean and the Executive Director of the Congress of Christian Education for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

A W.K. Kellogg Fellow and a member of the inaugural class of the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute, Pastor Buckley is committed to the causes of community development, social justice, and equity. As executive director of the Cade Development Corporation, he helped to lead in the development of an 81-unit senior citizen apartment complex, which opened in 2012 in the Virden Addition community. Pastor Buckley has served on the board

of directors for the Hinds County Economic Development Authority, the Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College, and currently serves on the Board of Advisors for the Program for Research on Faith, Justice and Health at the University of Houston and the Board of Directors for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Pastor Buckley has also been inducted into the Tougaloo College Hall of Fame, is a recipient of the Tougaloo Meritorious Leadership award, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Pastor Buckley is married to Lecretia A. Buckley, Ph.D. and they are the parents of two children, Jonathan and Anna.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Reginald M. Buckley for his dedication and passion for his community and the State of Mississippi.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF AMY WORTH**

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2022*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Amy Worth.

Throughout her career, Amy has worked tirelessly to build a community in which all Contra Costans can thrive. Amy was elected to the Orinda City Council in 1998 and has served the City of Orinda for the last 24 years, serving as mayor for 5 of those years. Amy has been involved with many regional groups, as Chair of the Contra Costa Mayors Conference, President of the League of California Cities, East Bay Division, and board member of the California Council of Governments (CalCOG). Amy has also played an important role in maintaining operations of Contra Costa libraries, serving as Chair of the Contra Costa Library Commission and President of the Friends of the Orinda Library. Contra Costa and Bay Area residents have benefited greatly thanks to Amy's commitment to public service.

Amy has also been a key part in strengthening our regional transportation system and improving Contra Costa's infrastructure. Amy served as a member and past Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), representing all 19 cities of Contra Costa. She also served as a board member and past Chair of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). Her leadership was critical in the implementation of Measure J, which helped to add a fourth bore to the Caldecott Tunnel and improved traffic congestion through Contra Costa. Measure J was the result of collaborative efforts between environmental groups, transportation experts, and community members and Amy was recognized by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar as 2005's Woman of the Year for her leadership on the project. Amy's work has helped to deliver needed improvements on our roads and highways and she has worked tirelessly to meet the transit needs of our county.

It has been my honor to have worked alongside Amy through her many contributions to this community and I am proud to call her a friend. As she enters retirement, please join me in honoring Amy for her 24 years of dedicated service to our community.

**HONORING MINORITY BUSINESS TOPPS PRIVATE INVESTIGATION & SECURITY FIRM, LLC**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resilient minority business that is doing great things in their community, Topps Private Investigation & Security Firm, LLC.

Mrs. Ophelia Topps is the Owner and Chief Executive Officer of Topps Private Investigation & Security Firm, LLC. She is a native of Grenada, MS. She is married to Anthony Topps, Sr., and has four children—three boys and one girl, and she also has six beautiful grandchildren.

Mrs. Topps received her bachelor's in criminal justice from the University of Mississippi in 2014. She began her law enforcement career as a Telecommunicator with the Grenada Police Department. After 14 years of service, Mrs. Topps transitioned to a police officer. In 2016, she then retired from the Grenada Police Department as a Detective Lieutenant.

After Mrs. Topps retired, she opened her own business, which is Topps Private Investigation & Security Firm, LLC. Topps Private Investigation is a Minority/Women owned and operated business with over 30 years of law enforcement experience, combined with over ten years of private investigation and security experience.

Mrs. Topps specialize in a diverse range of services pertaining to security and investigations. During her tenure with the Grenada Police Department, she completed multiple training programs that equipped her with the skills needed to protect and serve her community. She has led her team of security guards in different security capacities including at universities, public schools, semi-pro football league, conferences, concerts, corporate buildings, and most recently, Mississippi Department of Health State School and Nashville Metropolitan Development Housing Agency apartment complex towers.

Mrs. Topps is a recipient of the 2013 Bobby L. "Bubba" Wells Motivational Award—Law Fit Challenge. Mrs. Topps' passion is to serve and protect others. Yearly, she adopts a class with the ICS Head Start Center for Christmas. She continues to provide professional service that promotes public safety.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Topps and Topps Private Investigation & Security Firm, LLC for her resilience and hard work her and her firm do for their community.